

The diploma work called *The Phenomenon of Tarantism and the Traditional Musical and Dancing style of Pizzica in the South-Italian Region of Puglia* by BcA. Irena N. Kobyláková analyses two basic cultural topics typical for the South-Italian region of Puglia from ethnological point of view, tarantism and pizzica, which complement each other.

In the first part the author treats the process of tarantism, i.e. of a psychosomatic disease which was healed by musical and dance therapy in a frenetic rhythm of pizzica created by drumming on a tambourine. The work analyses the causes of the disease, which are symbolically substituted by a poisonous spider, reveals the process and the therapy of the disease, the relationship of an afflicted person to the mythical spider, as well as to Saint Paul, the patron of the poisoned.

The second half of the work involves a musical and dance analysis of tarantella of Salento called pizzica, namely its three kinds, the pizzica tarantata, the passionate pizzica and the gesticulated pizzica. This part is complemented by a report about the contemporary happening, popularity and use of pizzica in Puglia.

A report of own field research in the region, which took place during years 2003 – 2009 is part of the thesis as well.

The purpose of the diploma work was to bring forth an issue which hasn't been expertly treated in Czech ethnology so far and which is at the same time a subject of the ethnology of today.